Claims 5 to 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Chapman. Applicant respectively traverses the rejection.

Chapman describes administering live Coccivac-B vaccine to chicks that were 3 days old, ten days later amprolium was given to the birds at a concentration of .006% in the drinking water for only 2 days. The purpose of the Chapman reference was to demonstrate that immunization would be an effective therapy for treatment of poultry flocks which had been maintained on medicated feed such that the possibility of anticoccidial resistant strains may develop. However, it is respectfully submitted that Chapman does not anticipate or render obvious the present invention.

As set out in the claims of the present application, in particular claim 5, the present invention is directed to a method of protecting poultry birds against coccidiosis by administering to the bird a vaccine containing live oocysts of Eimeria to develop an immunological response, maintaining the bird free from chemotherapeutic agents effective against coccidiosis for a period of time corresponding to about one life cycle of the Eimeria and thereafter administering to a bird a chemotherapeutic agent effective against coccidiosis for a period of time corresponding to at least one life cycle of the Eimeria. As has been set forth in the present application on page 11, beginning on line 23, one life cycle of Eimeria ranges from approximately 5 to 9 days. Thus in order to practise the present invention, according to the claims, the animal is maintained on the chemotherapeutic agent for at least 5 to 9 days after being maintained free of the chemotherapeutic agent. This timing of the administration of the chemotherapeutic agent is described beginning on page 12, line 18.

As noted above, Chapman teaches the administration of the amprolium for only 2 days which is on the order of 25 to 40% of a life cycle of Eimeria. There is no teaching or suggestion in Chapman that would lead one of skill in the art to extend the length of time of the treatment of the flock by amprolium as has been taught in the present application. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of the application are not anticipated by or rendered obvious in view of Chapman.

Respectfully submitted

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JJ/ab